Approved for Release: 2020/09/28 C02992460

The National Intelligence Daily

Published by the Director of Central Intelligence for Named Principals Only

Copy No. 326

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 1977 VOLUME 4, NUMBER 273

[redacted] NR Record

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Approved for Release: 2020/09/28 C02992460

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WESTERN EUROPE

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(b)(3)

USSR: Satellite Problems

The Soviets have not yet regained control of Cosmos 954, the radar ocean reconnaissance satellite whose command system has been malfunctioning

(b)(3) [redacted] **The satellite continues gradually to lose altitude.**

(b)(1) [redacted]

The satellite's automatic attitude control system [redacted]

(b)(1) (b)(3) [redacted] minimizes its orbital decay. Continued operation of this system will enable the satellite to remain in orbit [redacted]

(b)(1) (b)(3) [redacted] Should this system fail before the nuclear power source is boosted into high orbit, the entire satellite will begin tumbling and enter the earth's atmosphere as early as December.

If the automatic boosting mechanism were to activate while the vehicle is tumbling, there is a strong possibility that the satellite would be forced into the atmosphere prematurely at a time impossible to predict.

[redacted]

(b)(1) (b)(3)

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CG NID 77-273JX

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SS—Secret SPOKE
S—Secret
C—Confidential
U—Unclassified
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REL . . .—This Information has been Authorized for Release to . . .

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